

MEMBERS' QUERIES

Des. 0556.01 Diamond

In Auction No. 1 (2000), Lot 316 is a QV cover with 1d Venetian SGI66, perfin Diamond with dot inside (0556.01) and identity of H. Halford & Co, Change Alley, Lombard Street. The cover is dated 10 My 81. This would appear to be a new, but second, identity for this die.

Rosemary Smith identified this die some years ago from a cover with the name, G Ross & Co, 80 Cornhill, London EC. The perfin was on 3 QV ½d's SGI64 and dated 13 Mar 83.

The question is - are both these identities correct or only one of the two. John Nelson has been asked to look through his directories for the period to see if he can shed any light on the matter. John replied:- *I have not been able to find a sensible answer to your query. Henry Halford & Co were described as Stock & Share & Mining Brokers: George Ross & Co were Bankers and Merchants. These are not the sort of businesses one would expect to have been connected or later joined up and indeed in 1895 Halfords were at Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, EC and Ross at 55 Bishopsgate Street Within, EC. The suggestion of firms borrowing other firms' stamps might be nearer the mark. Change Alley did in fact open out on to Cornhill, but at No.23, and 80 Cornhill was quite a distance away. What is required is access to directories for 1880 and 1883, which I do not have, which might show the firms at adjoining addresses. Perhaps Maurice Harp or John Mathews might be able to help.*

The ball is in your court Maurice, John or anyone else.